HEALTH
21 SEP 1944
R. 32

(1)

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HELATH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 3.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff.

C.N. LITTLE. (Temporary Appointment.)

J.M. DEKINS. (Temporary Appointment.)

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone - Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

Urishay House,
Peterchurch,
Hereford.

Telephone - Peterchurch 241.

-xx-xx-xx-xx-xx-xx-xx-

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1943. The Report accords with Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health and like the previous ones published during wartime, it is much abbreviated and is to be regarded as an interim report.

The figures included relate only to the civilian population and I am happy to be able to state that the incidence of notifiable disease remained low. The commonest infections were measles, whooping cough and mumps, but the incidence of these was not heavy. Generally speaking the health of the inhabitants was good.

In the present report the subject of water supplies has been dealt with in some detail, as the Council will have to give much attention to this question, in the near future, the particulars submitted may be of some assistance.

It gives me very much pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the support which the Council has always given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given by the other officers of the Council in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

May 1944.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	86,043
Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1943) ...	2,141
Rateable Value	£23.197
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£101.16.4

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	18.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	28.2
DeathRate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	15.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births.
Heading No.29 ...	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Heading No.30 ...	Other Puerperal Causes	1	6.8

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	77.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	74.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	125.0

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:-

The number of specimens examined by the Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Hereford, during the year were as follows:-

Water -	Bacteriological Examination	35
	Chemical "	Nil
	Swabs	18
	Sputum	4

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water:-

The Council provides a piped water supply in the Parishes of Clifford, Dorstone and Longtown. These schemes are quite successful and are of very great value to the parishes which they serve. In addition, there are a few other small piped schemes in the District, which are privately owned. These are of varying degrees of constructional soundness but make a contribution to the water supplies of the area. The remaining dwellings are supplied by individual shallow wells and springs. There are a number of public wells in the District.

The supplies of the District cannot be regarded as entirely adequate although this may be a defect of distribution rather than of real shortage. The western part of the District contains a number of springs and it is possible that these could be utilised more extensively than at present. This is a matter for further investigation.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

Five new drains were laid during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

Inspections:-

Slaughterhouses and Shops	120
Bakehouses	18
Schools	6
Water Supplies	155
Nuisances	27
Factories	34
Fruit and Hop-pickers Accommodation ...	83
Infectious Disease	62
Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	219
Other Housing Inspections	73
Cow Sheds and Dairies	273
Petrol and Oil Stores	25
Miscellaneous	1,741
Salvage	56
Milk Samples	102
Water Samples	78
Rats and Mice Survey	96
Disinfestations	8
	3,176

Notices Issued:-

Informal	28
Statutory re Housing	nil
Statutory under Other Acts	3
	31

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Drains Relaid	13
New Drains Laid	5
Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated ...	7
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	7
Defective Sinks and Urinals Rectified ...	2
New Water Closets Provided	6
Water Closets Repaired etc.	3
Privies converted to Pail Closets	11
Privies converted to Water Closets ...	2
Privies converted to Chemical Closets ...	2
New Pail Closets provided	--
Pail Closets repaired	11
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	3
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	2
Rooms Disinfected re Infectious Disease ...	49
Schools Disinfected	--
Public Vehicles Disinfected	--
Dwelling Houses Cleansed	7
	130

School Closures:-

There were no school closures during the year.

SECTION D. HOUSING:-

Construction commenced on the six cottages allocated to the Council under the Emergency Agricultural Housing Scheme. These dwellings are situated in the Parishes of Peterchurch, Kingstone and Kilpeck, and the erection of these dwellings was found to be expensive and very protracted under existing circumstances.

The Council also reviewed the housing requirements of the District and came to the conclusion that additional cottages are necessary.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

1. (a) Total number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) 219

   (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 292

2. Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices:-

   Number of Defective Dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

   Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice

   (a) By Owners ... ... Nil

   (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Milk Supply:-

There were 395 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Food Inspected and Condemned:-

Beef	308 lbs.
Tinned Milk	179 Tins.
Tinned Fish	41 Tins.
Tinned Meat	37 Tins.
Cheese	15 lbs.
Ham	56 lbs.
Oranges	267
Bacon	246 lbs.
Mutton	17 lbs.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

The number of notifications of infectious disease received was 64, which is the usual figure for what can be regarded as a normal year. Measles accounted for 25 and whooping cough for 16, whilst scarlet fever came next in order of frequency with 11 cases. Throughout the year, the district remained free from diphtheria; such freedom from this disease has not been experienced since 1936.

Notifiable Disease During the Year 1943:-

Disease.	Total Cases	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Pneumonia	6	Nil
Measles	25	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2
Scarlet Fever	11	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil
Whooping Cough	16	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil

Disease.	Age Groups.												
	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals.
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	6
Measles	-	-	3	1	-	12	5	1	3	-	-	-	25
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	2	1	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	16
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	2	2	5	5	2	23	9	3	6	1	4	2	64

There were 10 cases of scarlet fever admitted to the Stretton Sugwas Isolation Hospital and 1 case of cerebro spinal fever was admitted to the County Council Hospital, Hereford, and a second case was notified after admission to the Herefordshire General Hospital, Hereford.

There was one death due to cerebro spinal fever, and one due to acute encephalitis and four due to influenza.

Scabies:-

Eight cases of scabies were brought to the notice of the Department and all necessary action for treatment and prevention was taken. Scabies in a rural district presents no easy solution as treatment must be carried out in the home and many dwellings are without adequate supplies of water and proper facilities for baths.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Slow but steady progress continued to be made with this work and much has been accomplished by the willing co-operation of the local medical practitioners, I am sure that the Council would wish me to place on record its appreciation of the work of the doctors in this direction.

The following table gives the result of the work of the year:-

Age Group	1 - 5 years.	5 - 15 years.		Total.
Prophylactic	A.P.T.	A.P.T.	T.A.F.	
Children Immunised	66	12	28	106

At the end of the year it was considered that 25% of the child population under 5 years of age was immunised and that 57% of those aged 5 - 15 years were so protected. These figures are probably fairly accurate.

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1942 there were 29 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 19 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary. During the year 1943 16 cases, 11 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, were added to the Register. Sixteen cases were removed from the Register during the year, 11 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st. December 1943, 29 cases remained on the Register, 19 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1943:-

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
15+	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45+	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-